SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5245**

		6		5	9			
4	8			6		1		5
								3
	6	2			7		4	
	7	4			5			
	1			2			7	
	9				4		5	8
		7					9	
		5	3	9	2			

TRICKY **B5245**

			3		5	7		
	3	6	7				4	
	9		1					
					2			5
4	1	5				6	3	
5					3	8		4
1	4			2				3
					1			

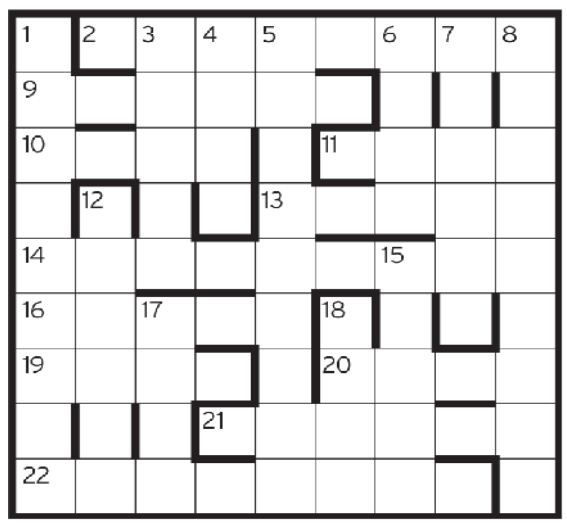
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

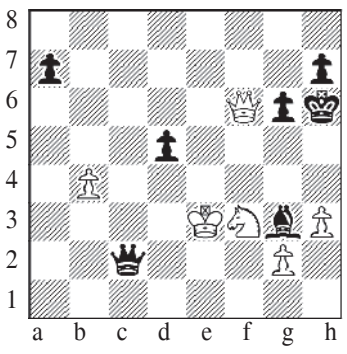
2 Frivolous or offhand (8)
9 Planet (6)
10 Exact double (4)
11 Sense (4)
13 Elegance (5)
14 Mafia leader (9)
16 Capital of Morocco (5)
19 Soon (4)
20 Written words (4)
21 Alloy (6)
22 Person who does general repairs (8)



DOWN

1 Signature (9)
3 Scottish landowner (5)
4 Pubs (4)
5 Place of suffering (9)
6 Region or vicinity (4)
7 Female relatives (6)
8 Deer total (anag.) (9)
12 _ Lumley, actress (6)
15 African carnivore (5)
17 German city (4)
18 Particle of matter (4)

CHESS



BLACK TO PLAY

HINT: FORCE CHECKMATE.

Solution:
1. ... Bf2ch! Kf4 2. Qe4 mate!
[Diney-Srasulov, '14]

TARGET

O	P	E
N	R	D
H	O	M

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 28;
Very good 48;
Excellent 55 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

RATEPAYER

apery array artery arty eatery parry party payee payer peaty perry pray prayer prey pyre RATEPAYER repay retry retype tarry teary terry tray trey type tyre year

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

I'VE SOLD SIX! HOW ABOUT YOU?
FIVE SO FAR!
LET'S SEE HOW NATE'S DOING! WE MADE A BET ABOUT WHO'D SELL MORE!
WHERE IS HE, THOUGH?
FRANCIS!
FOUND HIM.
CALL 911! CALL 911!
Visit: bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

BABY BLUES

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:38pm	05:06pm	05:44pm	05:04pm	05:10pm	05:39pm
Sunrise	06:46am	06:40am	06:50am	06:32am	06:48am	06:56am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow				Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook		Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	12	27	Mostly Sunny	64	12	27	Sunny		12	26	Sunny
Hyderabad	12	31	Sunny	36	13	31	Sunny		14	31	Sunny
Islamabad	11	25	Sunny	51	11	24	Sunny		10	24	Sunny
Lahore	12	27	Mostly Sunny	74	12	27	Sunny		12	26	Sunny
Multan	12	27	Partly Cloudy	59	12	27	Sunny		12	27	Sunny
Peshawar	10	24	Sunny	62	10	24	Sunny		9	24	Sunny
Quetta	4	20	Partly Cloudy	33	3	19	Sunny		2	17	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
ORNATE

(ORNATE: or-NATE: Elaborately or excessively decorated.)

Average mark 20 words
Time limit 30 minutes

Can you find 27 or more words in ORNATE?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — SIAMANGS

saga	assign
sang	magi
sans	main
siamang	mana
sigma	mania
sign	mass
sing	miss
snag	gain
again	gamin
agism	
amass	
amassing	
amiss	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

METRO EVENTS

DOCUMENTARY

'Advertising & the End of the World', a documentary screening, is held at the Institute of Business Administration, at 2pm.

DISCUSSION

'Pakistani Cinema Aur Waheed Murad', a discussion under the auspices of Writers & Readers Caf , is held at PMA House, Garden Road, at 5:30pm.

PLAY

Running for My life, a multimedia theatre play inspired by Agnes Tirop's story, is staged as part of the World Culture Festival at Auditorium 1, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 8pm.

WORKSHOP

A workshop series 'Generative AI and Agents with LangGraph & Groq', is organised at Iqra University, Gulshan campus, at 3pm.

LECTURE

A lecture on 'Regulatory Affairs for Future Pharmacists: Navigating Pakistan's Regulatory Framework and CTD Dossier Requirements' is held at Lecture Hall 2 of Salim Habib University at 10am.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

*** The New Moon each month is an opportunity to make resolutions or set intentions. This month's New Moon that is occurring today is the perfect time to think about your debt structure and how you're handling shared property, inheritances and such. Tonight: Check your finances.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** Today the New Moon is your best chance in the entire year to think about what you can do to improve your marriage or partnership, as well as your professional partnerships and relationships. These are all important to you. Can you do anything to improve them? Tonight: Cooperate with others.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** You have an opportunity today to rethink your attitude about how you do your job, as well as how you do any task that you set for yourself. If you think that work is onerous, you might begrudge your efforts and do as little as possible. Or perhaps you realize you are always working for yourself. Tonight: Get better organized.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** We're a work-oriented society. However, it's vital to achieve a healthy balance between work and play, something that's easy to forget. Do you give yourself enough time to play and enjoy good times at sports events or with the entertainment world or socializing? Tonight: Warm interactions.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

*** The New Moon today occurs at the bottom of your chart, giving you a chance to think about what you can do to improve your relations with family members, as well as how you can do something that will improve where you live. Family and home are important. Tonight: Relax.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** You're an intelligent, analytical sign and a keen communicator. Today's New Moon is your chance to think about your style of talking and listening to others. Do you genuinely listen, or are you waiting for your turn to speak? Think about this. Tonight: A good conversation.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** Finances, cash flow and earnings are on your mind now. Ironically, today's New Moon is your best chance all year to think about how you handle the money that's available to you, and also how your possessions help or hinder your lifestyle. Could things be better? Tonight: Check your money.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** Today the only New Moon in your sign all year is taking place. Take a realistic look in the mirror and ask yourself how you can improve the image that you create on your world. Why not look the best you can be? Tonight: You're confident.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

*** We all believe in something, even if we believe "we don't believe." Today's New Moon is a good time to ponder what beliefs you have that ultimately guide your important decisions in life. Is there a way you can get a better understanding of your beliefs? Tonight: Quiet time.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** We all need an opportunity to socialize with each other. In fact, daily socializing and strong social connections are one of the key factors for the Blue Zone people. Think about the friendships you have, and also the friendships you would like to have. Ideas? Tonight: Schmooze.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** This is the only time all year the New Moon is at the top of your chart, urging you to examine your attitudes about authority and how your attitudes might help or hinder you. It's also a good time to look at the trajectory of where you're headed. Where do you want to be five years from now? Tonight: You're noticed.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** Each month, the New Moon is an opportunity to make resolutions or set intentions. Today's New Moon urges you to take stock of your education and life experiences. What can you do to broaden your knowledge to enrich your world? Tonight: Learn.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Top-notch defense

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K J 5 4
♥ 10 9 3
♦ Q 9
♣ A J 6

WEST
♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ Q 5 2
♦ J 10 7 6 2
♣ 3

EAST
♠ 8 3
♥ K J 7 6 4
♦ 8 5 3
♣ K Q 9

SOUTH
♠ 10 9
♥ A 8
♦ A K 4
♣ 10 8 7 5 4 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead -- six of diamonds.

The primary goal of a defending pair is to make the most of their combined partnership resources. It follows from this that top-notch defense depends heavily on partnership cooperation.

Consider this deal where West led a diamond against three notrump. Declarer won with dummy's queen and played the ace and another club, hoping to catch a singleton honor or find the suit divided 2-2.

But West showed out on the second club, discarding a low diamond on East's queen of clubs. This informative discard indicated that West had lost interest in diamonds, the suit East might otherwise have returned. So East shifted to the six of hearts, ducked by South and won by West with the queen. West then returned a heart, forcing the ace.

Declarer realized that continuing clubs at this point would surely lead to defeat, so he turned his attention to spades, leading the nine. South planned to let the nine ride, and, if the finesse succeeded, he intended to lead the ten next and overtake it with dummy's jack.

Had everything gone as South planned, he would have finished with 10 tricks. But West threw a spanner into the works by covering the nine of spades with the queen! As a result of this inspired play, declarer was able to score only the A-K-J of spades and so finished with just eight tricks.

It is true that South could have and should have settled the issue at the outset by attacking spades instead of clubs, but this does not diminish the credit due East-West for a fine defensive performance from start to finish.

Tomorrow: A problem of logistics.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1 Forbidden
7 Lahore
9 Ibex
10 Appal
12 Topi
13 Franchise
14 Lung
16 Ad-lib
18 Tuba
19 Blight
20 Tennessee.

DOWN

1 Flimflam
2 Rhea
3 Boxing
4 Irascible
5 Dip
6 Elapse
8 Alienate
11 Grudge
12 That is
15 Mugs
17 Len.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5244

4	3	9	8	7	1	2	5	6
1	6	7	2	9	5	3	8	4
2	5	8	4	6	3	9	7	1
8	7	3	1	5	4	6	2	9
6	2	4	9	3	7	5	1	8
5	9	1	6	2	8	7	4	3
3	1	5	7	4	6	8	9	2
7	8	2	3	1	9	4	6	5
9	4	6	5	8	2	1	3	7

Tricky — B5244

4	8	3	5	2	1	6	9	7
7	2	9	3	6	8	5	4	1
6	5	1	7	4	9	8	3	2
9	6	4	8	7	5	1	2	3
3	1	5	2	9	4	7	6	8
8	7	2	1	3	6	4	5	9
5	3	7	4	8	2	9	1	6
2	4	6	9	1	7	3	8	5
1	9	8	6	5	3	2	7	4